

 R^3 [,] and R^4 [, R^5 , and R^6] are independently H, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl or phenyl not comprising a thiol group;

n is an integer from 1 to 6;

L is a bivalent linking moiety; [and]

Z is a targeting moiety; and

X is $-NH_2$, $-NR^1R^2$, or $-NR^1-Y$, where Y is an amino acid, an amino acid amide, or a peptide of from 2 to about 20 amino acids.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. Claims 1, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, and 37 have been cancelled without prejudice and will be pursued in a continuation application. Applicants note that claims 27-29 are drawn to non-elected inventions, pursuant to the Response to the Restriction Requirement filed January 4, 1996. Claim 2 has been amended to independent form, and claim 5 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments to the claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5, 29 and 37 stand rejected under § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for a variety of reasons. Cancellation of claims 29 and 37 and the amendment of claim 5 are believed to obviate this rejection, and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 26, 28, 29, 31 and 37 stand rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Fritzberg, U.S.Pat.Nos. 4,965,392 or 5,091,514. The Examiner takes the position that Fritzberg discloses formulae which may be substituted to yield ligands which would be encompassed by monoamine, diamide, thiol-containing metal chelating agents which provide the advantage of *in vivo* targeting of a radiopharmaceutical. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without acquiescing in the rejection, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 26, 28, 29, 31 and 37 in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, for reasons set forth in detail below. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Potentially Interfering Subject Matter

Submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner is a Form PT O-1449 and a copy of U.S.Pat.No. 5,662,885, which discloses and claims a radionuclide chelating compound within the scope of the present claims. In particular, claims 1, 2, and 6 of U.S.Pat.No. 5,662,885 are believed to correspond substantially to certain embodiments of claims 2 and 7 of the instant application.

In light of the amendments and arguments set forth above, Applicants submit that the rejections contained in the Office Action of February 5, 1998 should be withdrawn and that the present claims are in condition for allowance or appeal. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this application further, he is requested to contact the undersigned attorney. If any additional fees are due with regard to this amendment, authorization is hereby given to charge such fees, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0452.

Respectfully submitted,

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